With the Medical Officers Compliments

Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1908.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Turton.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my 28th Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District of Turton, with a summary of sanitary work performed during the year 1908.

The various statistical items are a rate per 1,000 upon an estimated population at the middle period of the year of 12,710.

The total number of births was 225; 128 males and 97 females, or an equivalent annual rate of 17·8. The rate for the whole County during the year 1907 was 24·23, and for England and Wales during the same year it was 26·3. In your District during the same period the number was 231 and the rate 18·2. During the past year there was a decrease in the birth rate of 0·4, and a decrease on the mean of the previous 9 years of 2·8.

Subjoined is an analytical table in respect of births in the 4 principal divisions comprising your District.

	Population.		1908.			1907.			Rate.	
Births in	1908.	1907.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	1908.	1907.
Turton.....	6,957	6,937	64	51	115	61	58	119	16·5	17·1
Edgworth.	2,595	2,579	27	18	45	29	20	49	17·3	18·9
Bradshaw.	2,290	2,269	27	21	48	24	24	48	20·9	21·1
Belmont...	861	865	10	7	17	8	7	15	19·5	17·3
Total....	12,710	12,650	128	97	225	122	109	231	17·8	18·2

Four illegitimate births were registered.

The total number of deaths during the year was 168; 95 males and 73 females. The annual rate is equal to 13·21, an increase of 1·52 on that of the year 1907, and a fractional increase on the mean

rate for the previous 9 years. The County rate for the year 1907 was 14·40, and the rate for the whole of England and Wales was 15·0, so that your District still holds a favourable position in respect of mortality, the present slight increase being due to transient and accidental causes.

Nearly one quarter of the total deaths occurred amougst persons of 70 years and upwards; 17 between the ages of 70 and 75, 13 between 75 and 80, 4 between 80 and 85, and 5 between 85 and 90.

The following table shows the distribution of deaths in the 4 principal divisions of the District, and the comparative statistics for the years 1907 and 1908.

You will observe that Turton has an increased rate equal to 1·8, Edgworth an increase of 4·2, Bradshaw a decrease of 4·9, and Belmont almost double the rate for the previous year.

Bradshaw Ward has again the largest proportion of deaths of aged persons. The proportion of deaths of persons over 70 years in age to the total deaths in Bradshaw Ward was 12 to 30, in Turton 21 to 95, in Edgworth 6 to 29, and in Belmont there were no deaths over 69 years.

	Population.			1908.				1907.				Rate.	
Deaths in	1908.	1907.		M.	F.	Total.		M.	F.	Total.		1908.	1907.
Turton.....	6,957	6,937	....	54	41	95	....	38	44	82	....	13·6	11·8
Edgworth.	2,595	2,579	....	13	16	29	....	4	14	18	....	11·1	6·9
Bradshaw.	2,290	2,269	....	18	12	30	....	23	18	41	....	13·1	18·0
Belmont...	868	865	....	10	4	14	....	2	5	7	....	16·1	8·2
Total....	12,710	12,650		95	73	168		67	81	148		13·21	11·69

The total number of deaths of infants under one year in age was 28, or a rate equal to 124·4 per 1,000 births. Zymotic diseases caused 5 deaths or a rate of 0·32. There were 9 deaths from Phthisis or a rate of 0·70. Respiratory diseases caused 34 deaths or a rate of 2·67.

The infant mortality rate during 1908 was 29·2 higher than that for the year 1907, and 36·06 higher than the mean of the previous 9 years.

The principal factors in the causation of the increased infantile mortality appear to be the larger number of premature births and a higher proportion of deaths from bronchitis. Only four deaths were due to diarrhœal diseases.

The infantile mortality rates for the County and for England and Wales during the year 1907 were 129 and 118 respectively.

The Zymotic rate shows a decrease of 0·07 per 1,000, and considerably below that prevailing in the whole of England and Wales at 1·25, and in the County at 1·51. The respiratory rate is similar to that of the previous year, 1907. The deaths from Phthisis were slightly increased in comparison with the year 1907.

The following table has been compiled so that the various items may be presented to you in such form as to enable you to compare the principal divisions each with the others, and also the past with the previous year.

1908. Divisions.	Birth rate.	Death rate.	Zymotic diseases. No.	Zymotic diseases. Rate.	Phthisis. No.	Phthisis. Rate.	Respiratory diseases. No.	Respiratory diseases. Rate.	Infantile mortality. No.	Infantile mortality. Rate.
Turton	16·5	13·6	2	0·28	6	0·74	16	2·31	16	139·1
Edgworth	17·3	11·1	0	0	2	0·77	2	0·77	3	66·6
Bradshaw	20·9	13·1	2	0·87	0	0	15	6·55	5	104·3
Belmont	19·5	16·1	0	0	1	1·15	1	1·15	4	235·2
Whole District	17·8	13·2	4	0·32	9	0·70	34	2·67	28	124·4
1907.										
Turton	17·1	11·8	1	0·1	4	0·40	16	2·60	11	92·5
Edgworth	18·9	6·9	2	0·78	2	0·78	3	1·16	4	81·6
Bradshaw	21·1	18·0	1	0·45	0	0	13	5·72	5	104·2
Belmont	17·3	8·2	1	1·16	0	0	1	1·16	2	122·2
Whole District	18·2	11·69	5	0·39	6	0·47	33	2·52	22	95·2

The infectious diseases notified during the year numbered 36, as against 39 during the previous year. The distribution of the cases over the several divisions of the District is shown in Table 3 annexed to this report.

The following is an analysis of the notified cases in respect of number and resultant mortality:—

Diphtheria 6 cases, Membranous Croup 1 case.

Of the Diphtheria cases, one was in the Egerton Ward due to a defective drain, one at Harwood due to a defective closet at place of work in Bolton, and two in Turton Road, one being due to a defective ashpit, and from this case another person became affected. The remaining two cases occurred in Belmont, for neither of which was there any discoverable cause. The sanitary condition of the houses and premises was satisfactory.

The case of Croup occurred in Dunscar and terminated fatally. No defects were found in the sanitary arrangements of the house.

Scarlet Fever.—Cases notified 18, as against 23 during the previous year. The cases were distributed as follows:—

Eagley Ward.—3 cases. One of them was in Hardman's Lane and one in Paper Mill Road, neither of which could be traced to its origin. The third was in School Street and was traceable to the case in Hardman's Lane.

Edgworth Ward.—1 case, the origin of which could not be discovered.

Bradshaw Ward.—9 cases. One was contracted at Bury Street, Bolton, one at Tonge Moor Road, one followed a visit to Queen's Park, Bolton, from which another person was infected, one was contracted by a teacher at Holy Trinity School, Bolton, and from this case the infection passed to another person in the same house, one was acquired at school, but for the remaining two cases no cause of origin was discovered.

Bromley Cross Ward.—5 cases in Turton Road. One was due to contact at place of work. The infective origin in four cases could not be traced, but one of them is a manager of the Co-operative Store, Tonge Moor, and it is probable he contracted the disease at the shop.

No deaths from Scarlet Fever were registered.

Enteric Fever.—2 cases, both in one house in Hardman's Lane. The sanitary arrangements of the house were in good condition and no local cause could be found for the first case, but the second was due to direct infection, as he was assisting in the nursing of the primary one.

No deaths were recorded.

Erysipelas.—8 cases were notified but no deaths were registered. None of them had origin in insanitary conditions of the houses or premises.

Whooping Cough was prevalent during the whole year in all parts of the District, and one death in an infant was recorded.

Measles was prevalent in the Egerton Ward during April and May, and in the Bradshaw and Chapeltown Wards during December. The disease continued to spread in spite of the schools being closed for the Christmas holiday, so I recommended the closing of the

Harwood Wesleyan, the Bradshaw and Chapeltown C.E. Schools for one month.

One death in an infant was registered.

The preventive measures against the spread of infective diseases were home isolation, the visitation of schools, the closing of schools when considered necessary, the fumigation and cleaning of schools, infected houses, wearing apparel and bedding.

The only isolation arrangement is an agreement with the Ainsworth Smallpox Authority providing two beds for Smallpox cases.

The water supply of the District is obtained from the Bolton Corporation Waterworks, with the exception of a few outlying farms and cottages, and these are supplied from springs and shallow wells. The water supply at 3 farms and 20 cottages was found to be unsatisfactory, the storage tanks or the filters, &c., being defective or requiring to be cleansed. The condition of the water supply of the main part of your district in respect of purity was satisfactory, but the dangerous plumbo-solvent tendency specially mentioned in my last Annual Report has continued during the whole of the year. The question has occupied the attention of your Sanitary Committee at each of its monthly meetings. I have presented monthly reports to that Committee upon this serious defect in the water supply, and and periodical analytical reports have been also presented from Messrs. Crace-Calvert and Thompson, and from Mr. Harcourt Phillips. There has been much correspondence betwixt your Sanitary Committee and the Bolton Corporation Waterworks Authority, and between myself and the Borough Analyst and the Waterworks Engineers, there has been frequent communication both by letters and by personal interviews. Your Sanitary Committee also appointed a deputation to wait upon and discuss the question with the Bolton Waterworks Committee, the outcome and final result being that the Bolton Corporation Waterworks Authority has satisfactorily demonstrated its desire and determination to effectively deal with the matter, and has given an assurance that every endeavour will be made to remedy the evil and ensure a supply of wholesome water.

All the reports relative to the water question have been collected, printed and circulated amongst the members of your Council.

The whole district is efficiently sewered, and the three sewage works have worked satisfactorily.

The Scavenging of that portion of your district under your own control has been satisfactory, but in the Edgworth, Entwistle, Quarlton, Harwood, Longworth and Belmont localities, in which the emptying of the ashpits is done by the owners of property, your Inspector informs me the work is not always properly performed. To ensure uniformity and efficiency, I would recommend that all these localities be included in your Scavenging area. I have made frequent and systematic inspections of the whole of the District during the year, and I have notified to your Inspector several sanitary defects which in each case have been promptly remedied.

I am pleased to note that there were 69 conversions from the objectionable, insanitary, and frequently condemned ashpit method of excrement disposal to the more convenient and cleanly "water carriage" system. Forty-two new houses have been erected, and they have all been provided with either slop water closets or with fresh water closets.

The various Workshops have been visited and their sanitary condition noted. All the legal requirements in respect of ventilation, air space, and cleanliness have been observed. Any insanitary defects were promptly remedied, the details of which will be found in the tabulated record in the latter portion of this Report.

Five overcrowded and nine dirty houses were found, and the usual notices of abatement were served, and in each case the legal requirements were carried out. There were 7 cases of animals or fowls being kept in a filthy condition, or in unsuitable situations in dwellings or yards. Their removal was secured and the houses were cleansed.

Your Sanitary Inspector reports to me as follows :—

Smoke Nuisance.—Observations made, 79. No legal proceedings were necessary.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—Number on Register, Dairies 108; Cowsheds, 189. Inspections made, Dairies, 222; Cowsheds, 392. All the Cowsheds and Dairies were limewashed. The floors of 6 Cowsheds were repaired. Eight Cowshed drains were defective, and were either repaired or reconstructed, and 6 were trapped. Four Dairies were repaired, 3 new liquid manure tanks provided, 8 notices to tenants and 4 to owners were issued relating

to insanitary conditions, and abatement was effected in each case.

Slaughter Houses.—Number on Register, 10. Inspections, 297. All the premises were in a satisfactory condition. Four notices in respect of limewashing, and 2 in respect of defective drains were issued, and the demands were complied with. The removal of offal was effected in 2 cases.

Bakehouses.—Number on Register, 12. Inspections, 57. All the premises were in a satisfactory condition. Three notices were issued in respect of limewashing, and 2 in respect of sanitary defects, all of which were attended to. One drain was repaired, 1 reconstructed, and 2 were trapped. One new water closet was constructed to replace an old and defective privy.

Vans, Tents, etc., used as Dwellings.—Twenty-five visited the District and were inspected. The sanitary regulations were properly observed. Six temporary wood dwellings for the use of the workmen employed on the Delph reservoir construction were erected with the approval of your Sanitary Committee.

Workshops, etc.—Number on Register, 28. Inspections, 81. All were limewashed. Six notices in respect of limewashing and 4 in respect of sanitary defects were issued. Four defective drains were repaired or reconstructed, and 3 were trapped. Two new water closets were provided.

Domestic Workshops.—Number on Register, 10. Inspections, 20. All were in a satisfactory condition, and were in a cleanly state.

Scavenging.—Privies and Ashpits. In the scavenging area of Bromley Cross, Eagley, Egerton, and Chapeltown 2,066 ashpits were cleansed. Regular inspections of the ashpits outside this area were made, and I found that in some cases the emptying of the ashpits had not been done so frequently and regularly as they required.

The refuse tips were visited, and their condition was satisfactory.

There is considerable difficulty in finding suitable places for refuse tipping.

Ashpits, etc.

Number defective	90
Number repaired	32
New privies erected	5
Conversions	54
New water closets in place of ashpits	15
Dry ash houses provided	38

The following is a summary of the Sanitary Work performed during the year :—

Number of inspections	1923
Number of re-inspections	2274
Outstanding notices from previous year	19
Notices issued	136
Nuisances abated	126
Notices, time limit unexpired	29
Smoke testing of drains	341
House drains reconstructed, repaired, etc.	209
House drains trapped	129
Main drains reconstructed	9
Surface of yards repaired, etc.	78
Slopstone pipes disconnected, repaired, etc.	19
Ventilating shafts fixed	16
Soil pipes repaired	6
Downspouts disconnected, repaired, etc.	72
Carcases of meat inspected	7
Carcases of meat unfit for food	2
New urinals	1
Urinals re-erected, repaired, etc.	4
Houses fumigated	27
Schools fumigated	11
Accumulations of filth removed	14
Pigstyes near dwellings removed	4

The following is a Schedule of Tables forwarded to the Local Government Board as appendices to this Report :—

1.—Statistics of the whole District during the year.
2.—Vital statistics of the separate localities.
3.—Infectious diseases notified during the year.
4.—Cause of, and age at, death during the year.
5.—Infantile mortality during the year.

I am, Gentleman,
Yours obediently,
J. Robinson, M.D., L.S.Sc., &c.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Rockfield, Dunscar,
Nr. Bolton,
February 17th, 1909.